



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

May 2017

*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday, May 7 – Communion

**3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Special Music – Good Group

Lay Reader: Diane Winebar

Greeters: Bev Begg and Donnas Stone

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

### Sunday, May 14

#### Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity

Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

### Sunday, May 21

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Clair Winebar

Greeters: Owen and Kay Ziessler

Acolyte: Owen Brauen

### Sunday, May 28

Choir

Lay Reader: Beth Buist

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

### Sunday, June 4 - Pentecost

#### Communion

**3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Lay Reader: George Stultz



## Mark Your Calendars!

- May 5-6 – 30 Hour Famine – Bluffton Presbyterian Church
- May 6 – Devotional and Potluck Meal to end 30 Hour Famine – 6:00 PM – Bluffton Presbyterian Church
- May 7 – Share the Spirit Fellowship – Following Worship
- May 11 – Session – 7:00 PM
- May 12 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- May 13 – Arts and Crafts Show
- May 14 – Mother's Day
- May 17 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- May 17 – Praise Team Rehearsal – 7:30 PM
- May 26 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- May 21 – Retirement Party for Pastor Dave – Following Worship
- May 21 – Last Sunday School Day for Children and Youth Until September
- May 24 – New Beginnings Meeting – 7:30 PM
- May 28 – Newsletter Deadline  
[CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- June 4 – Fellowship for Graduates Recognition and Pentecost – Following Worship
- June 4 – Relay for Hope Fundraiser Picnic on the Lawn – Following Worship

## Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to present in church during the month, get it to the church office by Wednesday morning so it will be announced by our Lay Reader.

## Small Groups

Claralice Circle:

Tuesday – BPC Library at 6:30 PM

## Coffee Talk

Thursday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

# Swimming in the **BIG WAVES**



Swimming in a lake requires a special attitude. In the relation to the distant shore, there is very little sense of making headway. But you keep swimming. You have to keep swimming.

But then, when the wind stiffens, the lake becomes choppy and swimming is less fun and becomes work. It becomes effort. Unless you are in the ocean and it isn't just choppy, instead there are big waves. Now the key to the big waves is you have to work with them. You can't fight them. You have to take their energy and use it. If you don't work with them – well, the water will win.

Well, it has been an interesting 6 months.

Making large decisions about the future. Taking steps. Dealing with bureaucracies, the board of pensions, social security administration. Then Charles had the heart attack. Then Charles and Ermil were moving into our house. And Advent and Christmas. Then a brief season of winter light through the living room windows, and evenings filled with “Jeopardy” and “the price is right” (Ermil's favorites). Then there was the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party, a major milestone. But this entire journey and all the complications are just swimming in the lake until you meet death, from a direction you didn't anticipate. (And in some sense death is always beyond anticipation.)

Because death is **the big waves**. It is loss which is attached to things **deep** within. Things you can never fully grasp until they are flinging you around; and you are just a little swimmer in waves which are big.

So you do what you have to. You face what needs to be faced. You do what you can. And in the middle of that you continue moving. There is no way around grief and loss. You have to go through it.

Dear Bluffton, Thank you for your love and prayers through this journey. The journey filled with unexpected turns. Filled with relationships which are delight filled, and taxing. Filled with meeting the changing times, in both the light and the dark. Thank you for the notes, the cards, expressions of care, moments for a touch of the hand or a hug; thank you for the flowers. **You are nothing less than the caring Spirit of God**

Now I guess we will meet what comes next. My brother's bone marrow cancer, my retirement dinner. My departure. And then, in your season, your new installed pastor. In the midst of all of this, there will be the celebration of gifts, the celebration of life and faith, of the times which we share together, and there is change and loss.

Life is filled with surprises. I am glad I brought my swim suit. You share grace and peace, thank you.

Pastor Dave

# Closing Thoughts

*<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
and no fruit is on the vines;  
though the produce of the olive fails,  
and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock is cut off from the fold,  
and there is no herd in the stalls,  
<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will exult in the God of my salvation.*

*Habakkuk 3:17-18*

Well, my thoughts have developed and our time now grows short. Here are my thoughts in sermons for the coming weeks. There are some things we should get on the table, **not because there are answers**, but because in our time **we are called to meet the questions**.

May 7 – “On being human”. The Presbyterian Church has fought about sexuality for 40 years. Taking a different tack, I suggest that what is fundamentally at stake is what it means to be human, and how we meet each other.

May 14 – “Bringing nature home”. Some thoughts about God’s intent for life. It is an abundance of life (and death) and relationship. This lesson comes from our garden, but it is about our world.

May 21 – “What Habakkuk said”. Whoever heard of a sermon on Habakkuk? On the Sunday of my retirement dinner, I wanted a message which has accompanied me across my journey. It is the words of Habakkuk 3:17-18; it is a song I have sung for 56 years. It is the challenge of life, it is the context and response of faith, it is a celebration of assurance.

May 28 – “In the real world: race”. Some reflections on race and relationship for the current moment and from across 7 communities and 50 years.

June 4 – “On being Presbyterian and being Bluffton”. The gifts and problems of being Presbyterian, the gifts and opportunities of Bluffton.

June 11 – “Gospel and Godspeed”. Gospel thoughts and good “goodbyes”.

I’ll see you Sunday(s)!

## Opportunity

That's what it is. We will need preachers during July and August, and maybe into the fall. So here is a genuine opportunity. Last year we had several members come forward to preach. It was a rich blessing. Will you offer to preach a Sunday? Wrestle with the Word, for all of our sake. You will find God's blessing. If you would like the opportunity, contact Pastor Dave or Cindy Gillen

## Highlights of April's Session Meeting

- Carole Enneking/Sarah Brauen are handling Facebook page. Approved new mission statement "Growing in Faith - Sharing God's Love". Approved "Little Free Pantry" proposal with funds to come from Ropp/Mary Emma Triplett memorial. Expected location is in rear area where well lit.
- Pastor Nominating Committee had three meetings in March including training by Susan Meier. Sarah Brauen is Chair/Diane Winebar is Secretary. Our completed Ministry Information Form has been approved by Committee on Ministry and Session. Planning to attend "Reverse Face to Face" on April 29 in Findlay. Approved granting PNC \$1000 line item in budget to be used for expenses.
- Stained glass window has been picked up. Pastor Dave will be "blessing" on Sunday then Owen will hang in the office. Minutes and Membership Rolls books were reviewed by MVP – no exceptions. Approved receiving Letter of Transfer for Leslie Freed from Prospect United Methodist Church.
- Agreed to have Patrick/Mike Rhonemus to continue mowing the manse yard. Subcommittee consisting of Jodi Brauen, Cathy Carroll, Lynda Best, and Tom Hursey will be walking through the manse to make recommendations. New door for manse has been ordered.
- Gift card will be given to Cathy Carroll for Administrative Assistant's Day.

- Community VBS will be July 16-20 from 6:00-8:00 PM at English Lutheran Church. Our church is responsible for Preschool stories and games and 2 walkers each night. Sunday School youth class made Easter bags and delivered/visited members at Maple Crest/Mennonite Home. "30 Hour Famine" will be May 5-6.
- Approved that our share of proceeds from Craft Show lunch be designated for general fund. Approved collecting money for "love gift" for Pastor Dave's retirement.
- Approved accepting donation of tree for church yard from Lynda and Kim Best in memory of OC and Cleo Hursey, Lee Hursey, and Bob Hursey.



## Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

The PNC has received a list of pastor candidates from the online church/pastor match program. We are working through the list of candidates to identify those we are interested in pursuing further. In addition, five PNC members attended a Presbytery event last Saturday in Findlay that brought together seven churches searching for pastors and six pastors seeking a call. Although we decided not to continue conversations with these six pastors, the day was productive and we look forward to continuing the search process.

## New Beginnings

The April New Beginnings meeting was postponed until May 24 at 7:30 PM due to scheduling conflicts. Please contact Diane, Dick, Lin, Tenna, or Ryan if you have any ideas you would like to share.

## Share the Spirit and Connect with our Homebound!

Share the Spirit is designed to bring our church's homebound members together with caring members of the congregation. To someone who is homebound, being remembered is important. Family also is important, and isn't a church a spiritual family? *Thank you to everyone who has participated in this event in the past.*



**Let's do it again!** On May 7, you're invited to stay after worship for fellowship time and another opportunity to remember those who can't share in the life of the church as they once did. There will be cookies and punch for all. We encourage those who wish to take part this month to choose a slip of paper from our basket filled with the names of our homebound members. The next step is to visit the person whose name you have drawn, send an encouraging note/card, or give them a friendly phone call within a month.

This is a wonderful way to reach out to our homebound and offer a sense of connection and belonging. Share the Spirit drawings will be held every few months, so there will be plenty of chances for you (and your family!) to take part in this ministry. We hope you'll say "Yes!" and support a special someone.



## Hanging of Restored Stained Glass Window



## Deacons Report from April Meeting

Thank you to all those who helped us reach the 10+ members mark for the Presbyterian Today Magazine. By ordering more we were able to get a larger discount enabling each member to only pay \$5 for the year. If anyone else decides they too would like to receive the magazine at home please contact Laura From or Pastor Dave anytime so we can get you signed up. Be on the lookout for the bi-monthly subscriptions as they come in, a few will be placed in the back of the church for all to share.

Our Easter Bake Sale was a hit everyone!! Although it started with rain, we ended the day in the full sunshine of God's grace. We were very thankful for the new tent. Most important the Deacons want to say a big **Thank you** to those who made monetary donations, volunteered their time, and donated the wonderful array of baked goods! Due to your generosity, together we raised \$617. The money has been designated for local mission needs.

We discussed our upcoming Share the Spirit fellowship hour on May 7.

## Retirement Dinner

There will be a retirement dinner for Pastor Dave on May 21 immediately following worship. We will be having a monetary love gift. Donations may be given through offering, but please note for Love gift. Donations may also be given to Cathy Carroll or Lori Schmidt. Look for more details at end of this newsletter and the church bulletins.



## New Commissioned Ruling Elder Program

The Maumee Valley Presbytery and the Commissioned Ruling Elder Committee are excited to announce the creation of a new Commissioned Ruling Elder Program (formerly Lay Pastor Program) to launch this September 2017. Do you feel a call to ministry but are not able to go to seminary? Do you know of someone in your church that has the gifts of ministry? Do you want to explore how God might use you in a new way in the local church? If so, this program may be for you!

Pastor Dave has a document entitled: Vision and Scope of the CRE Program. It explains the CRE training program that begins this fall. It is a 30-month program. It involves online classes with Union Seminary ([www.upsem.edu/pathways](http://www.upsem.edu/pathways) for more information) plus a Bible Content Course, a Preaching course, and a few other locally generated courses to fill out what Union Seminary provides.

Some of the requirements to be a part of this program are: the student must be an Elder in a PCUSA church (or working toward it within a year) and the student must be endorsed by their local Session, and the student must be interviewed by the CRE committee prior to acceptance.

We are excited about launching this new training program. If you have questions contact Pastor Dave. The deadline for the completed application to be to us is June 1, 2017. Please send it to the Maumee Valley Presbytery at: 700 East Melrose Avenue, Findlay, Ohio 45840, Attention: CRE program.

## Family Promise

Thank you to: Lynda Best, Sarah and Clara Brauen, Dick and Jayne McGarrity, Lori Schmidt, and Dave and Sue Van Eman. Your donations of food and willingness to serve as hosts for Family Promise guests are great appreciated!

We will have another opportunity to host in June at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Details will be shared as we get closer to that date.



An Invitation to Support our Community!  
Team BPC is now forming for the Relay for Hope fundraiser in June.

Members of the congregation and friends are encouraged to help meet the \$500 goal set by the Mission Committee/Team BPC toward this year's local cancer-research fundraiser. You can help meet the goal in a variety of ways:

- Help under-write the rental cost of TWO Inflatable Games at the Relay for Hope on Friday, June 23. Families with children pay a small fee to enjoy the games! If the rental fees are covered by donations, all of the night's income will go toward our goal. Volunteers will be needed that night from 5:30-8:30 PM to help with set-up, collecting money, and running the inflatables.
- Picnic Lunch on the Lawn on Sunday, June 4: proceeds from an informal lunch of hamburgers/hot dogs and sides will go toward our Relay goal. Donations of food items, drinks, and desserts will increase the profits; volunteers will be needed to grill and serve that day. You can help by supporting the meal and telling your friends and neighbors, too.
- Participate in the Relay for Hope: Members and friends can support the Relay by signing up to walk between 6:00 and 10:00 PM and/or stopping by BFR for dinner and to enjoy the entertainment. Luminaries can be purchased in honor or memory of cancer patients and Flamingos can be sent around town to support the cause, as well.

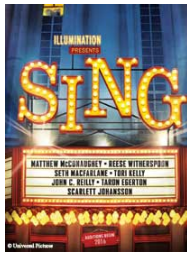
More information will be provided during worship over the next few weeks. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you are invited to make the check payable to the church and mark Relay for Hope on the memo line. Mission Committee contacts are Lynda Best and Carole Enneking.





## **Ignite - *merging fellowship, families, and service***

Ignite met in April for dinner and then attended Bluffton's High School Musical. In May we will support the 30 Hour Famine and Arts & Crafts Fair. Mark your calendar for the following two events in June:



1. We will host a Move Night on the Church Lawn after the Festival of Wheels on Friday, June 16! We have secured a license to play the movie *Sing*. This will be a community event, so please support us by dusting off your lawn chairs and picnic blankets and bringing your neighbors, family, and friends! For questions, please see Diane Winebar or Sarah Brauen.
2. The Gillen's will have a summer party at their home on Sunday, June 25. Anyone can come and swim or just relax and visit at 2:00 PM and there will be a potluck picnic at 5:00 PM. Table service, sandwiches, calico beans, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. You could also bring your lawn chairs. RSVP if yes at 419-358-5331.

## **Sunday School**

The last day of Sunday School for the children and youth class will be May 21. We will resume class in the fall. Parents and students are encouraged to give the CE Committee any feedback regarding this year's class experience and suggestions for next year.

## **Youth Group**

The 30 Hour Famine will serve as the youth group's May meeting. We will not meet on Sunday, May 7. Watch the newsletter and e-mail for any summer events!

## **Arts and Crafts Show**

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will once again be serving a lunch during Bluffton's annual Craft Show held on Saturday, May 13. Items requested to be donated include pies, cookies, brownies, canned pop (name brands only), and bottled water. Workers are needed for various shifts: set up, kitchen crew, serving, cleaning up.

If you are able to help that day by working or donating items, please either complete a bulletin insert or contact Lori Schmidt ([schmidtlbath@gmail.com](mailto:schmidtlbath@gmail.com)) or Cindy Gillen ([cegillen@marathonpetroleum.com](mailto:cegillen@marathonpetroleum.com)).

We are also looking for volunteers to coordinate kids' activities on the church lawn. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Brauen ([snbrauen@gmail.com](mailto:snbrauen@gmail.com)).

Proceeds from this meal are designated for our general fund. Thanks in advance for your part in making this event a success. Prayers for good weather are always appreciated!

## **Wheels Festival**

We will be serving a dinner on the church lawn for the Wheels Festival Friday evening, June 16, with proceeds going to the General fund. Ted's Market in Pandora will be providing chicken dinners. Hot dogs, brats, desserts and drinks will also be available. More information on donations and signing up to help will be in next newsletter and church bulletins.

Any questions please call Cindy Gillen 419-358-5331/[CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com) or Cathy Carroll 419-477-5266/[bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcbluff@wcoil.com)

## Prayer Requests

**Prayers of Sympathy** with Pastor Dave and Jane on the recent loss of Jane's mother Ermil.

**Prayers of Sympathy** with Tanya Best and family on the recent loss of her mother Stella Tomlin.

**Prayers** for our members and friends serving in the armed forces: especially Kyle Begg, Austin Begg, Dave Souders, Andrew Warner, and Lucas Woodward.

**Prayers of Healing** for Michael Lee Bucher, Carl Wolf, Tyler and Laura From, Anessa Samsal, Autumn Sprunger, Charles and Jane, Bob and Jean Braden, Jane Bickell, Sylvia Morman, Francis Schmidt, Walter Schmidt, Bob Angus, Dorothy Hursey, Jean Best, Jackson and Jayden, Becky McClellan, Mildred James, Keith and Esther Brauen, John Vrooman, Dortha Radabaugh and Amy Byers

## We Lift Our Prayers



Put a prayer request in – take a prayer request out.

Look for prayer request slips in the pews and near the prayer box. Or use your own paper. Requests can be as simple as “I'm having back pain,” or “My son is looking for a job.” The slips can be placed in the box or in the offering plates. Prayer requests can be submitted anonymously.

Allow someone in your church family to support you in private prayer.

## *A Special Thank You!!!*

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits, calls, and food throughout recuperation from my broken ankle. We have great cooks in our congregation. Thank you also to the children and youth for the devotions and Easter goodies. It is good to know that my family and I have such great support from our church family.

Sincerely, Helen Hawk

## BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus (419-358-8148 / [rhonstar@juno.com](mailto:rhonstar@juno.com)), or call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and they will pass along the information.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain other than yourself, please be sure to get their permission first. Names and circumstances can be kept confidential, if desired. God knows for whom we pray. If you would like to be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Mike or another deacon.

## *Happy Birthday!!*

May	2	Patrick Rhonemus
	3	Paige McVetta
	9	George Stultz
	11	Bill Begg
	14	Teresa Edelbrock
	20	Sarah Brauen Tucker Neff
	21	Becky Winebar
	23	Avis Marshall
	24	Carole Enneking Kevin McVetta
	26	Rebecca Hursey Kory Enneking
	29	Heidi Hotmire Tyler From
June	1	Michelle Zuehlke
	2	Ethan Fifer
	3	Carla Montgomery
	6	Sheila Hurlburt Donnas Stone

## Personal Information

Don't forget to let Cathy Carroll know when you have a change in address, phone number, and/or email address.

If your birthday or you know of a birthday that does not show up in our newsletter, please let Cindy Gillen know.



## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be July 16-20 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM each night. English Lutheran is the host church and we are helping with the preschool area this year. We are in charge of the Bible story and games for these youngsters each night. We will need volunteers to help in these areas and 2 walkers for each night. If you are willing to help, please let Carole Enneking or Tenna Rhonemus know. More details will be shared as we move forward with planning.

## Aluminum Can Recycling

Remember to save your aluminum cans. The Mission Committee sells recyclable cans and uses the proceeds to support mission causes in our area, most recently for a shelter and feeding ministry in Lima. Bring the cans to the church basement and contribute them to a worthy cause.



## Bluffton Area Food Pantry

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry thanks you for your continued support. Listed below are some items to consider for the pantry:

- Lotions and Creams
- Cereals
- Soups and Crackers
- Spaghetti and Sauces
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Paper products: TP, Paper Towels, Kleenex
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Vegetables (No corn or green beans needed at this time)
  
- Personal Hygiene Products: Deodorant, Shampoo, Hair Care Items (No bath soaps or toothpaste needed at this time)
- Spaghetios and similar canned foods
- Canned Meats
- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna and Tuna Helper

## Easter Help Appreciation

Thank you to Don Carroll for organizing the Easter breakfast and to all those who helped make it a wonderful breakfast.



## Graduate Recognition

Join us on Sunday, June 4 when we will recognize our high school and college graduates. We will have a reception immediately after worship to honor their accomplishments.

## High School Graduate Megan Sycks

Throughout high school, Megan has been involved in choir, chamber choir, show choir, marching and concert band, pep band, jazz band, and drama club. She has also been dancing for 13 years. Megan has maintained a 4.0 GPA and will be graduating as one of Bluffton High School's valedictorians. She plans to attend BGSU in the fall for psychology, with a minor in dance. Megan has been offered the Presidential Scholar's Award, which will cover her tuition for her four years in attendance.



## College Graduate Kory Enneking

Kory Enneking graduates with honors from University of North Carolina Wilmington on Saturday, May 6 with Bachelor of Science degrees in Marine Biology and Environmental Studies. In September 2016, Kory received a research grant from the MASNA (Marine Aquarium Societies of North America) organization. He will move in July to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to begin graduate studies in Marine Biology at Nova Southeastern University. He plans to continue working in the field of coral and reef restoration and possibly completing a PhD.

Kory became engaged to Alora Burr of Burlington, NC, in November of 2016. They will be married in Wilmington, NC on August 25, 2017. Alora also graduates from UNCW this semester with degrees in Business Administration and Spanish.



## College Graduate Nathan Hursh

Nathaniel Hursh, son of Robert and Tammie Hursh, will be graduating in August with a Bachelor of Science degree in Visual Communication Technology from Bowling Green State University. He attended the university on an academic scholarship and was employed by WBGU television as a Co-Op Student, eventually receiving the designation of a Student Leader. In 2016, he received the Rookie of the Year Award and in 2017 he received the Patrick Fitzgerald Dedication Award from the public television station. This summer he is completing his final Co-Op at Crown Equipment in New Bremen, Ohio and finishing his capstone project. He hopes to then obtain employment in the video production or television industry.



Nathan doing what he loves!





## Retirement Luncheon

Honoring

Pastor David Good

Sunday, May 21, 2017

You are invited to a Luncheon at Bluffton Presbyterian Church, 112 N. Main Street, Bluffton, Ohio, to be held immediately following the Worship Service which begins at 10:15 AM.

**Please RSVP by Monday, May 15**, via telephone 419-358-5806 or e-mail [bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcbluff@wcoil.com). We look forward to seeing you on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

A monetary “Love” gift will be presented to Dave from our church family. If you wish to make a donation, you may give cash/check to Cathy Carroll, prior to May 21 – please make sure your donation is designated for this purpose.

Following lunch there will be a time for people to “share” reflections.

Bluffton Presbyterian Church  
112 N. Main St.  
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419-358-5806

Pastor: Rev. David Good  
Phone: 765-993-7791  
Email: [mangendave@frontier.com](mailto:mangendave@frontier.com)  
Office Hours: Wed. 11:00-1:00 and  
Thurs.-Sat. 9:00-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll  
Email: [bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcbluff@wcoil.com)  
Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 9:00-12:30  
Website: [blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org)

Treasurer: Darin Leugers  
Email: [dleugers8319@yahoo.com](mailto:dleugers8319@yahoo.com)

**Sunday School: 9:00 AM**  
**Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 AM**

## **2017 Church Officers**

### *Session*

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt  
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey  
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and  
Carole Enneking  
Finance & Stewardship – Dick McGarrity  
Mission – Lynda Best  
Nominating – Tom Edwards and Cindy Gillen  
Personnel – Bob Angus  
Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt  
Worship – Cindy Gillen  
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Lori  
Schmidt, and Phil Weisenbarger

### *Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Laura From  
Members: Marilyn Edwards, Barb Fett, Laura  
From, Gayle Marshall, Mike Rhonemus, and  
Donnas Stone.